ABSTRACT

      System and method for managing leases in a distributed file system. A meta-data server is employed to manage leases to the objects in the distributed file system,

5   and a plurality of storage servers provide data storage for the objects. The meta-data server grants leases for objects to the clients. With each lease granted, the meta-data server provides data that indicate the time at which the lease will expire for the associated object. The lease expiration time is included in a subsequent request to the storage server for access to the object. The storage server determines whether the lease

10   has expired. If the lease has expired, the requested access is denied. Otherwise, the storage server provides the requested access.